



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: 55 ILLINOIS ST., ROOM 202, CHICAGO, IL 60601
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,199	08/29/2001	Kristy A. Campbell	M122-1672	8508

21567 7590 01/16/2003

WELLS ST. JOHN ROBERTS GREGORY & MATKIN P.S.
601 W. FIRST AVENUE
SUITE 1300
SPOKANE, WA 99201-3828

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

VU, DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2818	

DATE MAILED: 01/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/943,199	CAMPBELL ET AL
Examiner	Art Unit	
DAVID VU	2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,7,8 and 17-89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6 and 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2-3,6,8
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 5, 7-8 and 17-89 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species. There being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-4, 6 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kozicki et al., (US 2002/0168820).

Regarding claims 1-4, 6 and 11-16, Kozicki et al., in related text ([0039]) and figures (Figures. 1-2) disclose a method of forming a chalcogenide comprising device, comprising: forming a first conductive electrode material 130 on a substrate 110; forming a metal doped chalcogenide 140/160; an exemplary chalcogenide glass with dissolved metal includes a solid solution of $\text{As}_x\text{S}_{1-x}\text{Ag}$, $\text{Ge}_x\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{Ag}$, $\text{Ge}_x\text{S}_{1-x}\text{Ag}$, $\text{As}_x\text{S}_{1-x}\text{--Cu}$, $\text{Ge}_x\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{--Cu}$, $\text{Ge}_x\text{S}_{1-x}\text{--Cu}$, where x ranges from about 0.1 to about 0.5 other chalcogenide materials including silver, copper, zinc, combinations of these materials, and the like (See [0062] and [0053]) exposing the outer surface of the metal doped chalcogenide electrode material to an atmosphere having a temperature elevated from ambient room temperature for a period of time effective to form a passivating material 155 on the metal doped chalcogenide comprising material outer surface (See [0048]); and depositing a second conductive electrode material over the passivating material, and forming the second conductive electrode material 120 into an electrode of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kozicki et al., (US 2002/0168820).

Kozicki et al., in related text ([0048]), disclose the passivation 155 may be formed by exposing ion conductor 140 to an oxidizing environment at a temperature of about 300-800°C or by exposing ion conductor 140 to an oxidizing environment in the presence of radiation having an energy greater than the band gap of the ion conductor material. The passivation 155 may also be deposited using physical vapor deposition or chemical vapor deposition.

Kozicki et al., discloses all claimed subject matter, but fails to expressly mention the thickness of the passivation layer. The specific thickness of the passivation layer does not provide any critical or unexpected results to the chalcogenide comprising device. Rather, it is merely an obvious design choice determinable by routine experimentation. In Aller, the court stated, "Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1995).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Vu whose telephone number is (703) 305-0391. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms., can be reached on (703) 308-4910.

DV

David Vu.


HOAI HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER